President.—I suppose you are not contending that he is infallible.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I do not contend.

Construction of the waiting shed at the Ernakulam Ferry.

20. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Chief Engineer be pleased to state:—

(a) how many tenders were received, and from whom, for the construction of the waiting shed at the Ernakulam Ferry Landing place ;

(b) the amount of the estimate ;

(c) the amount of the various tenders ;

(d) which tender was accepted;

(e) the reason for the acceptance, if any?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) 6 tenders.

From Messrs. (1) K. I. Vavoo, (2) C. M. Francis, (3) M. Nanu Menon, (4) P. T. Xavier, (5) A. Kumara Kaimal and (6) V. E. Namia.

(b) Rs. 7,400.

(c) No. (1) at 3½ per cent less than the estimated rates, No. (2) at 2 per cent less, No. (3) at 2 per cent less, No. (4) at 4¾ per cent less, No. (5) at 5½ per cent less, and No. (6) at 7½ per cent less.

(d) No. (2) was accepted.

(e) No. (2) was best fitted to execute the work satisfactorily.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In answer to sub-division (e) of this question, I find the words "best fitted" and "satisfactorily". What is the underlying idea in the words " best fitted " and "satisfactorily" ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The meaning of those words is quite plain.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—He is the best of the contractors you have taken for the work. That is why I am asking whether there is any special meaning for the words "best fitted" and " satisfactorily". The work is an ordinary shed which is built in front of us. It is only an ordinary one, stone placed upon stone. Since it is an ordinary work, why could this work be not entrusted to the lowest tenderer who undertakes to do it at 7½ per cent less? I can see no reason why it is given to the *best fitted* man and one who could *satisfactorily* do it.

President.—I cannot allow this, and I cannot encourage this.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know what is the meaning of the words " best fitted" and " satisfactorily" ?

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Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not think any of the other men is equally good.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In my opinion every one is best fitted to carry out this work.

President.—That is a matter of opinion. We shall pass on to the next question.

Central Ayurvedic Hospital in the State.

21. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken till now for establishing a Central Ayurvedic Hospital in the State?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. K. T. Mathew—How long is it since this matter has been taken into consideration by the Government?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—About a year.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When was this resolution passed by the Council?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—In 1926.

President.—Do you know the date on which it was passed?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I cannot give the exact date.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—My question is whether the Government has taken the matter into consideration since the passing of this resolution.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Then it cannot be exactly one year.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Government has taken it into consideration, and is still considering it.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—You said it is one year. But it is a year and half.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—About a year does not mean exactly one year. It may be some days more or less.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Have any temporary orders been passed?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—No temporary orders have been passed.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—When did the deputation wait upon the Diwan for the first time?

President.—We cannot remember the date. It must be soon after the budget session of last year.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—In March 1926.

President.—Is it before the budget session?

Mr. K. T. Mathew—Is it so very unimportant a matter as not to have passed orders yet?

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